IDPL from the Drugs Prices Equalisation Account.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Industrial licence to M/s. Garware Plastics and Polyester

1440. SHRI T. R. BALU:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Garware Plastics and Polyester Limited, Bombay has made an application for industrial licence which was rejected in the past;

(b) whether there is any attempt to revive this application; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) In August 1987, M/s. Garware Plastics and Polyester Ltd., Bombay had applied for substantial expansion of their capacity for manufacture of polyester film from 4516 TPA to 10016 TPA. They have been granted a letter of intent for an additional capacity of 5500 TPA for manufacture of Polyester film.

NPTC collaboration with foreign firms

1441. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC is insisting for joint undertaking from foreign collaborators of Indian public undertakings like BHEL for the power station equipment;

(b) whether it is a fact that this is being insisted in spite of the hefty collaboration fees and big royalty charges;

(c) whether Government will direct NTPC not to insist for such joint undertakings from the foreign collaborators; and

(d) if so, what is the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (d) The NTPC are asking for joint undertaking for the guaranteed equipment performance from foreign collaborators of proven experience only in such cases where the experience of the Indian party is not adequate to meet the basic minimum requirements. This practice helps the NTPC to avoid the risk of sub-optimal equipment installation and also affords an opportunity to the Indian party for technological upgradation, thus enabling them to compete in global markets. However, when the level of experience of the Indian party attains the requisite standards, the necessity of collaborator's guarantee for equipment performance is dispensed with.

Import of equipments by NTPC

1442. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC has spent precious foreign exchange/World Bank aid on auxiliary equipments for the power stations by inviting global tenders;

(b) whether it is a fact that there smaller equipments were well within the capabilities of Indian manufacturers; and

(c) whether it is a fact that while inviting global tenders for these smaller equipments, several 500 MW TG sets were purchased by NTPC on single tender basis; if so, what are the details of the same and the foreign beneficiary party and value of such order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) Global tenders for the procurement of

equipments for the power stations of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) are invited only when so required by the guidelines indicated by the external agencies funding the project. The capabilities of the Indian manufacturers are taken care of at the stage of framing the qualifying requirements for the prospective bidders and domestic bidders are allowed price preference over foreign bidders.

(c) Eight 500 MW TG sets have been procured by the NTPC on negotiated single tender basis from M/s. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL), in association with M/s. KWU of West Germany, who are M/s. BHEL's technical collaborators. These TG sets relate to the Singarauli (2x500 MW), Korba (3x500 MW) and Ramagundam (3x500 MW) Super Thermal Power projects, amounting to a total value of approximately Rs. 378.50 crores.

Import of technology

1443. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to certain differences between the Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore, and the Semi-Conductor Limited, Chandigarh indigenous capacity is proposed to be by-passed and 1.5 micron technology costing about Rs. 50 crore in foreign exchange is to be imported;

(b) if so, what is the nature of differences and what are the difficulties in resolving the issues involved; and

(c) what are the considerations which weighed with Government to by-pass the indigenous capability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir. Indigenous capability is not being by-passed since 1.5 micron technology is not available in India. The 1.5 micron technology is to cost US $ 3.50 Million.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposed import is meant to cater to the rapid prototyping needs of Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore for a range of Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs) which are required to be developed by them to meet their in-house requirements of telecommunication equipment. Large scale manufacture of these circuits could be undertaken by Semi-Conductor Limited, Chandigarh.

Proposal to amend the Indian Patents Act

1444. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Indian Patents Act to accommodate certain suggestions made by the U.S. Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what implications are involved therein; and

(c) what is the decision; if any, taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) This Ministry has not received any suggestions from the Government of USA for amendment of the Indian Patents Act. However, as a part of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations under GATT, the U.S. Government has made certain proposals concerning norms and standards for protection of intellectual property rights. Such proposals will be dealt with as part of the multilateral trade negotiations.